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**STAYWARM NH  
PROGRESS REPORT #1**

December 1, 2008

HB 1653, enacted on September 24, 2008 and signed into law that same day, authorized a multi-tiered program to provide assistance to families in need this winter, by a) advancing \$10 M in general funds, if needed, to supplement the federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), b) shifting funds from existing energy efficiency programs to low-income residential weatherization, to be done by the Community Action Agencies in conjunction with the utilities and c) advancing \$1.2 M to be received in the December 2008 auction for the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) to be used for additional winter preparedness for low-income families. The legislation charged the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning (OEP) to coordinate the program, which it is doing in partnership with the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation and the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services. OEP is required to report every 60 day on the progress of the program, now known as StayWarm NH.

**LIHEAP Funding.** The federal government authorized significantly higher LIHEAP funding for the winter of 2008/2009 than in years' past. The final appropriation for New Hampshire is \$47.7 M, as compared to \$25 M for the winter of 2007/2008. Because we had the appropriation in hand by October 1, 2008, it was not necessary to draw on general funds. The \$10 M appropriated in general funds pursuant to HB 1653, therefore, remains untouched.

**StayWarm NH Outreach.** OEP has expanded weatherization and other energy efficiency education and guidance on our webpage, which is also accessible from the Governor's webpage. The New Hampshire Charitable Foundation organized a communications committee of volunteer media and outreach professionals from business, government and the non-profit community to develop a consistent and effective message for StayWarm NH. The committee crafted a message for StayWarm that resonates: Stay Warm - Stay Safe - Stay Connected. Posters and flyers have been distributed throughout the State and Governor Lynch has recorded public service announcements highlighting the program. We are working with the United Way's 211 service to provide accurate information to those in need. In addition, we have appeared wherever we can to promote the program and done interviews with radio, television and print reporters.

**System Benefits Charge Funded Programs.** The utilities and the Community Action Agencies have been working with additional System Benefits Charge funds, transferred from other energy efficiency programs or advanced from future years for use this winter. The Community Action Agencies are working at an accelerated pace to meet the targets of 370 additional homes weatherized by December 31, 2008 and another 199 homes by March 31, 2009.

**RGGI Funded Weatherization.** The Community Action Agencies will provide weatherization services to an additional 732 homes, using \$1 M in RGGI funds. The transfer of funds was accomplished via a contract between OEP and the Belknap-Merrimack Community Action Agency, which is coordinating the effort statewide. The contract was approved by the Governor

and Executive Council on October 22, 2008. The 732 homes to be weatherized with these funds are to be complete by March 31, 2009.

**StayWarm NH Volunteer Effort.** StayWarm NH, with the assistance of Volunteer NH, is organizing a statewide voluntary effort to provide winterization services to 500 homes identified by the Community Action Agencies. We have completed nearly 300 homes thus far, with about 300 volunteers working the weekends of October 15 and 22, 2008 in over 40 communities. Measures installed include window coverings, low flow showerheads and aerators, compact fluorescent bulbs, pipe insulation, caulking, a carbon monoxide detector and educational materials. We purchased the products at discount with RGGI funds. The weekend of December 13, 2008 will be the final volunteer mobilization. Also in December we will distribute approximately 3,500 Do it Yourself kits to homes identified by the Community Action Agencies for similar winterization measures. We purchased kits with RGGI funds; distribution plans and volunteers to assist in distribution are now being finalized. Between printing costs, production of a training DVD, purchase of materials for the volunteer crews and StayWarm kits, we will spend no more than \$200,000.

**Corporate and Individual Donations.** The StayWarm effort has been supplemented by individual contributions to the Community Action Agencies, as well as the following corporate donations:

Citizens Bank Foundation	\$50,000 for additional energy efficiency measures
Franklin Savings Bank	\$50,000 for fuel assistance, back bill arrearages, minimum deliveries, assistance to some people over the income guidelines
National Grid	\$25,000 to assist in paying fuel bills
Ocean Bank	\$10,000 to assist in paying fuel bills

In addition, the following have contributed in-kind support:

NH Charitable Foundation	Project Director salary, media expertise
PSNH	printing, 211 support, delivery of materials
NH Electric Cooperative	delivery of materials
EVP Marketing	discounted production of training DVD
Am. Conservation Services	discounted sale of winterization products
NH Public Radio	creation of interactive map on website showing services available

**Personnel.** The following people are a big part of StayWarm NH's creation and success:

Project Director Laura Richardson came on board early October, 2008, with the financial support of the NH Charitable Foundation, and launched the program in record time. The Foundation has also provided tremendous guidance, through Richard Ober and Kristen Oliveri. The Department of Health and Human Services, particularly Deputy Commissioner Mary Ann Cooney and Homeland Security Director Christopher Pope have provided support and guidance on the non-energy efficiency aspects of the program. Belknap-Merrimack Community Action Agency, in particular Dana Nute, Ralph Littlefield and Brian Hoffman, are coordinating the Community Action Agencies' participation in this effort. Volunteer NH's Kara Swedlow has been recruiting volunteers statewide and OEP's Mary Downes, Meg McPherson, Jack Ruderman and Amy Ignatius have been busy with Ms. Richardson pairing volunteer teams with needy homes, developing educational and training materials, purchase of products, and countless other tasks.